

When will new solid waste facilities be built?

The County has new stations in Enumclaw, Shoreline and Vashon, and is currently rebuilding the Bow Lake Transfer Station in Tukwila. After Bow Lake is completed, the Factoria Transfer Station in Bellevue is scheduled for replacement by 2015. The plan is to then build two new stations – one in south King County and one in northeast King County – followed by closure of the Algona, Houghton, and Renton transfer stations by 2018.

What has King County done to keep disposal fees low?

- Cut \$39 million in solid waste expenses over the past three years – through reduced staffing, changes to operating hours, and other efficiencies
- Adopted a plan to extend the life and capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill by an additional seven years, delaying the higher cost of using other disposal options



An estimated 40,000 tons of asphalt shingle waste generated in King County is disposed each year. King County is working with transportation agencies, road pavers, and recyclers to develop a hot mix asphalt market for recycled asphalt shingles in Washington state.



The Solid Waste Division offers school assemblies, hands-on classroom workshops and Green Teams that implement waste reduction or recycling projects in the school or community.

What can I do to keep my disposal fees low?

- Produce less garbage by practicing waste prevention – reuse or repair things instead of buying new, buy fewer disposable items, and avoid excessive packaging
- Donate reusable items to charitable organizations
- Recycle as much as possible, including putting your food scraps and food-soiled paper in your yardwaste container – visit www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore for more information

In nearly all communities, the larger your garbage container, the more you pay for curbside collection service. If you don't fill your garbage container every week or know you can recycle more, call your hauler and ask to switch to a smaller container.

For more information contact King County Solid Waste Division

Website www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste
General information 206-296-4466
Toll free..... 1-800-325-6165, ext 64466
24-hour recorded info 206-296-6540

Alternate formats provided upon request
206-296-4466, TTY Relay: 711

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Cover Photo: *The Bow Lake Transfer Station in Tukwila handles more than a third of the County's solid waste. The station is currently being rebuilt; new construction at top of photo and existing building in the middle.* ▶

New Solid Waste Disposal Fees

Effective January 1, 2012



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste

Solid Waste Disposal Fees

Effective January 1, 2012

	King County Basic Fee	Moderate Risk Waste Surcharge*	WA State Refuse Tax (3.6%)	Total
Minimum fee	\$17.49	\$1.81	\$0.70	\$20.00
Per ton fee	\$109.00	\$4.73	\$4.09	\$117.82

**The King County Board of Health approved an increase in the surcharge that funds hazardous waste programs throughout the County. The new surcharge takes effect January 1, 2012.*

These fees were approved for 2012 only and are for garbage only. Fees for yard waste, clean wood, and appliances are not going up at this time. The need to increase disposal fees for 2013 and beyond will be evaluated in 2012.

Who does this fee increase affect?

Everyone who lives in King County* who generates garbage and pays for curbside garbage collection service or who uses a County transfer station.

**Excludes residents of Seattle and Milton; those two cities are part of separate solid waste handling systems.*

About 800,000 tons of garbage are processed at King County transfer stations and disposed in the County's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill each year.

Will this fee increase affect my curbside garbage collection bill?

Yes. The average residential customer who puts out one container of garbage per week for curbside collection is likely to see an increase of about 82 cents per month in the garbage bill from their hauler; this is an average across the County that will vary. Contact your garbage hauler for more information about what your fee increase will be.

Why are the fees going up?

The fee increase will cover rising operating costs and help pay for modernizing the 1960s-era network of transfer stations operated by the King County Solid Waste Division.

An in-depth analysis and evaluation of the County's solid waste transfer system revealed that the County's aging transfer system network needs a major overhaul. Many stations were built in the 1960s and are operating beyond their designed capacity, using outdated technology, and lacking space for sufficient recycling services.

Rising operating costs are a result of increased fuel, equipment, labor, and maintenance costs. Due to the recession, there has also been a significant decline in revenue. This combination of rising costs and declining revenues necessitate a fee increase. Despite cutting \$39 million in expenses over the past three years – through reduced staffing, changes to operating hours, and other efficiencies – a fee increase is necessary to continue to provide safe and efficient solid waste operations.

What do disposal fees pay for?

The disposal fees pay for operation of King County's regional solid waste handling system that includes 10 transfer facilities and a state-of-the-art landfill. The garbage hauling company (or your city's department) that picks up garbage from your home or business takes it to a County transfer station. From the transfer stations, garbage is consolidated into larger loads and transported to the County's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in Maple Valley. Residents and businesses can also bring garbage directly to a transfer station.

Disposal fees also pay for educational and technical assistance services to schools, businesses, and residents, that are provided by the Solid Waste Division. We help expand markets for recycled materials, clean up illegal dumping on public property and facilitate cleanup of contaminated sites for redevelopment, work with manufacturers to make products that are less toxic and more recyclable, and provide many other waste prevention, recycling, and environmental services.

